

M.S. Graduate Assistantship (Ohio) – Ecology and Epidemiology of Diseases of Gray Fox

Applications are now being accepted for a highly motivated Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) at The Ohio State University to conduct research on disease dynamics in gray fox populations in Ohio. Gray fox populations have declined in recent years in Ohio and much of the midwestern United States. Limiting factors as well as other aspects of their population dynamics are poorly understood. Possible reasons for decline include changes in habitat, intraguild competition with other wild canids, harvest, or disease.

The successful applicant will pursue a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in the Comparative Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program of the College of Veterinary Medicine. This student will be co-advised by Drs. Risa Pesapane (u.osu.edu/pesapane) and Laura Pomeroy (cph.osu.edu/people/lpomeroy) with an anticipated thesis on the dynamics of canine distemper virus (CDV) in gray fox, as part of a team of researchers and wildlife biologists working to understand gray fox ecology, genetics, health, and overall population viability.

The student's primary responsibility will be to build and calibrate susceptible, infected, removed (SIR) models of disease dynamics. Additional opportunities dependent upon the applicant's interest may include a) conducting or interpreting laboratory testing for infection with, or exposure to, specific pathogens and toxins and b) conducting epidemiological assessments of gray fox diseases/disorders.

Requirements: Applicants must have a keen interest in disease ecology/epidemiology/wildlife conservation with relevant undergraduate training or work experience, have strong quantitative skills, and be highly organized. Experience with statistical computing or programming is desired, but not required.

Dates/Hours/Location: This is a full-time graduate student position at The Ohio State University main campus located in Columbus, Ohio.

Start Date: No later than January 2024 (Spring semester)

Application Deadline: Review of applications will begin on September 11th and continue until October 15th.

Salary: Graduate student stipend rates for 2023-2024 are approximately \$2,364/month plus healthcare benefits. This GRA also comes with tuition assistance.

To Apply: Application packet must consist of 1) cover letter, 2) resume or curriculum vitae, and 3) contacts for three professional references. Please submit the application as 1 PDF file via e-mail with a subject line of "Gray Fox MS" to Dr. Risa Pesapane Email: Pesapane.1@osu.edu. If selected, the applicant will also be required to submit a graduate student application to the Comparative Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program.